

*Illicit transport of tapioca.*

217. MR. N. V. CHACKO : Will the Honourable Minister for Excise be pleased to State;

(a) if an instance was reported of smuggling or illicit transport of tapioca from Kumarapuram to the Cochin State via Puthenchungom, Vettuveli and Koonananjilli ;

(b) whether enquiries by the Excise Department and then by the Police Department were ordered ; and

(c) whether these enquiries have been ended and what was the result of such enquiries.

HON'BLE. MR. K. M. KORAH : (a) A petition containing allegations about smuggling of tapioca was received.

(b) Enquiries were conducted by the Excise Department.

(c) Enquiries were completed. There was no trustworthy evidence to prove the alleged smuggling of tapioca.

MR. P. THANULINGOM NADAR (*Agasteeswaram—Hindu Nadar Reserved*) : On a point of order ; The question was put to the Excise Minister and the answer was given by the Food Minister. Is it in order ?

HON'BLE. MR. K. M. KORAH : There was a complaint that an enquiry officer shielded culprit. The petitioners said that certain officers were helpful in smuggling.

MR. N. V. CHACKO : Was any enquiry conducted on the matter ?

HON'BLE. MR. K. M. KORAH : There was no complaint about any Enquiry Officer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS.

*Levy of Water-Tax.*

218. DR. M. O. CHERIAN (*Devicolum-General*) : Will the Honourable Minister for Land be pleased to state :

(a) whether a water tax is levied for the paddy lands at Marayoor in Devicolum taluk over and above the basic tax ;

(b) if a water tax is levied the rates at which the tax is collected per acre ; and

(c) whether the cultivators of the land are given compensatory extra price for the paddy purchased by Government if water tax is collected ?

HON'BLE MR. C. KESAVAN : (a) No.

(b) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

(c) The question does not arise in view to answers (a) & (b).

*Police Stations in Devicolum.*

219. MR. M. O. CHERIAN : Will the Honourable Minister for Police be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Police Stations in Devicolum taluk have been ear-marked as stations for employment during the period of punishment of those of the Police staff who receive severe departmental punishments ?

HON'BLE MR. A. THANU PILLAI : No.